



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2019

**Present:** Mery Mendoza (President), Mohammad Wajih Alam (VP Finance and Operations), Chiamaka Ezekwesili (VP External), Alejandra Fonseca (VP Student Affairs).

**Absent:** None

**Regrets:** None

**Guest:** None

**1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks**

The President called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm. The President thanked the GSA executives for working together towards the successful screening of a film as part of the 2019 Sexual Assault Awareness Week. She further recognized that the event held in partnership with Random Acts of Green was also successful.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated. The VP External asked to move the discussion of the First Aid/CPR training to the next executive meeting.

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

*Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.*

### **3. Approval of the August 21, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes**

The President asked whether there were any further amendments to the August 21st Executive Meeting Minutes; there were none.

Motion: To approve the August 21st, 2019 Executive Minutes

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President

*Vote all in Favour, Motion carried.*

### **4. Approval of the September 09, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes**

There has been a delay in reviewing the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes.

Motion: To postpone the approval of the September 9th, 2019 minutes to next GSA executive meeting.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: President.

*Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.*

## **5. Items for Action**

### *5.1 GSA Funding request requirements*

The President mentioned that the GSA provides financial support to GSA ratified social clubs and academic councillors through analyses and further approval of funding requests. Although the current process keeps record of the financial support, it does not provide enough accountability. As such, the GSA, at times cannot be sure whether the event took place or not, therefore the GSA will follow new steps after the approval of funding requests. From now on, subsequent to organizing the activities for which the funds were approved, ratified social clubs and academic councillors with successful applications will be required to submit expense receipts to the GSA manager for reimbursement. If said expenses are less than the approved amount, the GSA will only fund what was actually spend as indicated in the official expense report which is submitted

by the social club or academic councillor. If expenses are over the approved funding request, the GSA will only provide the approved amount.

Motion: To follow the steps mentioned previously, for funding approved by the GSA.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

***Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.***

### *5.2 Approval of an Executive to attend the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students*

The president mentioned that we are members of the Canadian Federation of Students, and, as such, participate in meetings like the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students. The president mentioned that this is an excellent opportunity to interact and network with other students and it is important to engage in discussions of motions that are brought in this meeting, the VP External represents the GSA in these types of activities, therefore she should attend the meeting.

Motion: To approve that the VP External participates in the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

***Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.***

### *5.3 New social club ratification*

The VP Student Affairs mentioned that she has received 14 applications for the GSA ratification of Social Clubs and that all the documents from these applications are in order. The VP Student Affairs mentioned that there is a new group requesting ratification to the GSA. According to the constitution of this new social club, its main focus is international student activities.

Motion: To recommend the ratification of the new social group: International Student Association.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

*Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.*

#### *5.4 Fall Term Bursary Dates*

VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the call for applications for the fall need-based bursaries will be open from October 15<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The applicants will be able to submit their application at GSA Commons between 10 AM to 5 PM. After the deadline for applications, the bursary selection committee will sit together and evaluate the applications. Applicants will be notified by email on or before November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the final decision of the committee.

Motion: To email the graduate student body information pertaining to the Fall 2019 bursary application process.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External

*Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.*

#### 5.5 Cheque Remittance

Whereas GSA bylaws 5.4.4 restricts expenditure amounts above \$500, of any budget line, with the exception of salaries and Executive honorariums, without a majority vote of the Executive, BIRT the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to CFS in the sum of \$1677.90 for remaining Handbook balance issued on September 11, 2019.
- Payment to Remai Modern in the sum of \$2000 for booking the venue for GSA Award Gala issued on September 11, 2019.
- Payment in the sum of \$1517.81 for expenses related to the attendance of the ThinkGrad Conference and expenses of orientation food issued on September 11, 2019.

Motion: To approve the expenditures outlined in this section above.

Moved: President

Seconded: VP External

*Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.*

## 6. Items for Information / Discussion

### *6.1 Board of governors*

The University of Saskatchewan is one of Canada's Top 15 Research Universities and all of them but the University of Saskatchewan have a representative on the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters respecting the management, administration and control of University properties, revenues, and financial affairs.

This includes:

- construction and maintenance of buildings, equipment, and capital assets;
- appointing the president and other senior officers of the university and fixing salaries;
- compensation and terms of employment for all employees, and pension plans for retirees;
- overseeing the university's finances, investments, and pension plans;

- providing for the establishment and/or disestablishment of colleges, schools, departments, endowed chairs, and institutes;
- affiliation and federation with other educational institutions;
- setting of tuition and other fees; and
- establishment and oversight of good governance practices, including regulating the conduct of its meetings, establishing its committees, and making bylaws respecting matters over which it has responsibility.

As such, it is important for the GSA to have representation and voice.

GSA at University of Saskatchewan should be a part of this. To provide continuity to the efforts made by the previous GSA executives, a letter to the Advanced Minister of Education was sent, requesting the amendment of clause 44 of the University of Saskatchewan Act 1995.

#### *6.2 Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan*

The GSA president has sent a letter to the current Lieutenant Governor, Russell Mirasty, congratulating him for his new position and inviting him to attend the GSA Awards Gala, to be held at the Rемаi Modern Museum on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### *6.3 Student manual and pamphlets for new students*

The president met with the Associate Dean of CGPS, Dr. Martha Smith, to discuss the next steps for the student manual as well as the checklist that GSA is developing for graduate students. The manual and checklist will help graduate students with information of the services and activities that the University offers.

#### *6.4 Co-curricular record*

The VP External mentioned that the volunteers have been working hard during various events organized by the GSA. As such, she believes that the volunteers could earn CCR credit for volunteering their time with the GSA. She sent a document via email to all GSA executives detailing

the requirements regarding CCR and requested the executives to go through it to further discuss and approve individuals that complete the requirements for CCR. All executives will work towards this.

**7. Other Business**

**8. Confidential Session**

**9. In Camera Session**

**10. Adjournment of Meeting**

The President asked whether there was any other business arising. There were none.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP External seconded

**Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.